

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 25

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY THE EFFICACY OF DEVELOPING A MODEL OF MEDICAL FORENSIC
EXAMINATIONS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ALBUQUERQUE
THAT COULD BE REPLICATED STATEWIDE.

WHEREAS, sexual assault nurse examiner, "SANE", nurses
provide immediate, compassionate, culturally sensitive and
comprehensive medical treatment and forensic evaluation to
victims of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, there are currently ten SANE units in New Mexico;
and

WHEREAS, Albuquerque SANE nurses have been providing
medical forensic examinations to victims of sexual assault in
the Albuquerque metro area for twelve years; and

WHEREAS, these services are provided free of charge to

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1 anyone regardless of gender, income or age and are available
2 twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week; and

3 WHEREAS, during 2007, four hundred fifty medical forensic
4 examinations were provided in Albuquerque, and an estimated
5 five hundred examinations were provided in 2008; and

6 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque SANE program is co-located with
7 the Albuquerque family advocacy center, which provides many
8 services for victims of domestic violence; and

9 WHEREAS, law enforcement units dealing with sex crimes,
10 homicide, crimes against children and domestic violence are
11 also co-located with the Albuquerque family advocacy center;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, victims of domestic violence who are served by
14 Albuquerque family advocacy services could also be afforded the
15 opportunity to receive medical forensic evaluations by SANE
16 nurses in this safe and nonjudgmental environment;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
19 to convene a task force to study the efficacy of developing a
20 model of medical forensic examinations for victims of domestic
21 violence in Albuquerque that could be replicated statewide; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
23 representation from providers of services to victims of sexual
24 assault and domestic violence from the Albuquerque family
25 advocacy center; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SANE model be considered
2 as the foundation of this new model of services; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ongoing cost of operating
4 this new model of services be identified; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
6 recommendations of this task force be presented to the interim
7 legislative health and human services committee by November
8 2009; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the secretary of health, the Albuquerque SANE
11 program and the Albuquerque family advocacy center.